

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for routing hardcopy mail, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a unique identifier for a recipient;
 - electronically associating a mailing address with the identifier, the mailing address comprising all information necessary for routing the hardcopy mail to a location of the recipient;
 - affixing the identifier to a piece of hardcopy mail in lieu of the mailing address; and
 - routing the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the associated mailing address.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of electronically editing the associated mailing address.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the routing step comprises routing the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the edited mailing address.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier is a machine readable code.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the machine readable code is a bar code.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending the associated mailing address to a machine for routing the piece of hardcopy mail, prior to the routing step.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the associated mailing address is sent in response to a request by the machine, and wherein the request includes a value corresponding to the identifier.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for routing hardcopy mail, comprising the steps of:
providing a unique identifier for a recipient;
electronically associating a mailing address with the identifier, the mailing address comprising all information necessary for routing the hardcopy mail to a location of the recipient;
affixing the identifier to a piece of hardcopy mail in lieu of the mailing address and
submitting the piece of hardcopy mail to a machine; and
retrieving the mailing address to the machine, wherein the machine can read the identifier
and route the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the associated mailing address.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the identifier is a machine readable code.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the machine readable code is a bar code.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the mailing address is a physical postal address.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the machine is a postal machine.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of electronically editing the associated mailing address and electronically associating the edited mailing address with the identifier, prior to the sending retrieving step.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the sending retrieving step comprises sending the edited mailing address to [[a]] the machine, wherein the machine can read the identifier and route the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the edited mailing address.

15. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the associated mailing address is sent in response to a request by the machine, and wherein the request includes a value corresponding to the identifier.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for routing hardcopy mail, comprising the steps of:
providing a unique identifier for a recipient;
electronically associating a mailing address with the identifier, the mailing address comprising all information necessary for routing the hardcopy mail to a location of the recipient;
affixing the identifier to a piece of hardcopy mail in lieu of the mailing address;
electronically editing the associated mailing address; and
electronically associating the edited mailing address with the identifier; and
sending the edited mailing address to a machine, wherein the machine can read the

identifier and route the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the edited mailing address.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the identifier is a machine readable code.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the machine readable code is a bar code.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the edited mailing address is sent in response to a request by the machine, and wherein the request includes a value corresponding to the identifier.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for routing hardcopy mail, comprising:

- a recipient interface for electronically associating a mailing address with a unique identifier for a recipient, the mailing address comprising all information necessary for routing the hardcopy mail to a location of the recipient;
- a sender interface for outputting the identifier to a sender, wherein the identifier is affixable to a piece of hardcopy mail in lieu of the mailing address; and
- a cross-reference system for outputting the associated mailing address to a machine, wherein the machine can read the identifier and route the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the associated mailing address.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the mailing address is a physical postal address.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the machine is a postal machine.
23. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the unique identifier is a machine readable code.
24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the machine readable code is a bar code.
25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the recipient interface allows the associated mailing address to be edited and electronically associated with the identifier.
26. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the cross-reference system outputs an edited mailing address to the machine, wherein the machine can read the identifier and route the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the edited address.
27. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the associated mailing address is outputted in response to a request that includes a value corresponding to the identifier.
28. (Currently Amended) A system for routing hardcopy mail, comprising:
a recipient interface for electronically designating a mailing address for a recipient, the mailing address comprising all information necessary for routing the hardcopy mail to a location of the recipient;
- a sender interface for outputting a unique identifier corresponding to the recipient, wherein the identifier is affixable to a piece of hardcopy mail in lieu of the mailing address; and

a cross-reference system for outputting the designated mailing address to a machine in response to a request, wherein the machine reads the identifier and routes the corresponding piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the designated mailing address.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the request includes a value corresponding to the identifier.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the address is a physical postal address.

31. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the machine is a postal machine.

32. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the identifier is a machine readable code.

33. (Original) A program product stored on a recordable computer usable medium for routing hardcopy mail, which when executed, comprises the computer useable medium comprising program code for causing a computer system to perform the following steps:

~~program code configured to electronically associate associating a mailing address with a unique identifier for a recipient, the mailing address comprising all information necessary for routing the hardcopy mail to a location of the recipient;~~

~~program code configured to output outputting the identifier to a sender, wherein the identifier is affixable to a piece of hardcopy mail in lieu of the mailing address; and~~

~~program code configured to output outputting the associated mailing address to a~~

machine, wherein the machine can read the identifier and route the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the associated mailing address.

34. (Original) The program product of claim 33, wherein the associated mailing address is outputted in response to a request that includes a value corresponding to the identifier.